



e-News From MAIENstreet

A Neighborhood e-Newsletter From Councilman Brian Maienschein

February 2003

Volume 3, Issue 2



**Proudly Representing the
District Five
Communities of:**

*Carmel Mountain Ranch
Mira Mesa
Rancho Bernardo
Sabre Springs
San Pasqual
Scripps Ranch
Sorrento Mesa
Sorrento Valley*

Recreation Council Approves RB Dog Park

I am pleased to announce that on February 5, 2003, the Rancho Bernardo Recreation Council voted unanimously to approve the concept and design for the first leash free dog park in Rancho Bernardo.

As you know, this has been a priority for me since my election as your Councilmember in 2000. A leash-free area allows dog owners to take their pets to a suitable location in the community to exercise and play with other dogs.

The leash-free area is located adjacent to the existing Community Park at the south east corner. The site is estimated at 2.5 acres and will be comprised of three leash-free pens for large and small dogs. In addition, we will add one sports field and more parking.

With the help of many community leaders and volunteers, I was able to successfully bring this project before the City Council for approval in June of 2001.

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Maienschein Gives Status on Budget Cuts

It has become common knowledge that we are facing huge budget cuts from Sacramento. Right now we are still in a situation of shifting priorities, and the dust has not yet settled.



The Governor initially wanted to take \$80 million that would normally come to San Diego in Vehicle Licensing Fees. Losing these fees would drastically reduce City funds used for public safety, parks and other basic City services. We need to make adjustments to continue funding public safety and other needs, but raising fees to make up for shortfalls should not be the answer.

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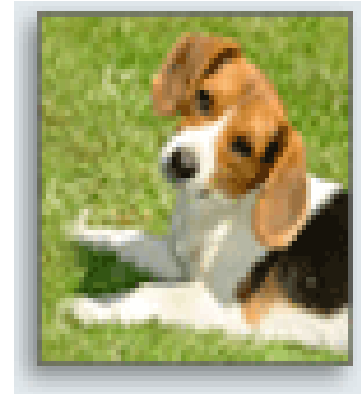
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Maddox Leash-Free Area Construction is Underway

Last year, I brought forward a proposal to expand the leash-free dog area for the Maddox Neighborhood Park, which is located on Flanders Drive, west of Parkdale Ave.

For the past year, Mira Mesa has enjoyed a trial leash-free area at Maddox Park. However, due to the immense popularity of the site, I set forth to convert it into a permanent leash-free dog park. This project will expand the park from .43 to .65 acres. It will also include disabled access, concrete pathways, fencing and shade trees. I am pleased to report that construction is set to begin later this month, a full six months ahead of schedule.



A leash free area is a valuable asset to any park. Not only does it provide dog owners with a place to exercise their pets, it also protects other park users from loose dogs. This is a terrific accomplishment for Mira Mesa. Additional park space is necessary to meet the needs of our growing communities and to sustain the quality of life that we all enjoy.

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With a successful vote from the council, I set out to work with the Park and Recreation Department and the local community groups in Rancho Bernardo to locate funding and establish a design for the park.

In December of 2002, I hosted a community forum to give residents the opportunity to communicate their thoughts and ideas for the design and construction of the park. I am pleased to report that the final design presented to the Recreation Council includes a unique collaboration of the various suggestions that our office received from the community.

Construction for the Dog Park is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2004. This is an important and exciting project for the community of Rancho Bernardo and the action taken by the Recreation Council brings us one step closer to seeing this dream become a reality.



(Continued from page 1 - Budget Cuts)

The most significant cut we may face is the loss of tens of millions of dollars earmarked for relief of traffic congestion. Davis may drain the entire account of \$100 million in the State's Traffic Congestion Relief Plan budget. What that would mean to San Diego is that part of the I-15 Improvements Project would be held up.

Barring further state budget cuts, I-15 will still see improvements from Ted Williams and across the Lake Hodges bridge. Auxiliary lanes are being added on the outside, and the bridge will get widened to relieve congestion at the region's worst congestion choke point. However, delays will be seen for the Managed Lanes section and HOV lanes in the middle of the freeway. And construction of transit centers up and down the I-15 may also be delayed for several months to a year. I am constantly working with Caltrans, Sandbag, and MTDB and Assembly members to keep that money in place, but the state's actions make this very difficult. Representatives of each agency regularly meet with me in my office and also report to the Freeway Congestion Strike Team committee which monitors all these projects.

State Route 56 could potentially lose \$14 million in funding, but I am working to insure that money is being re-allocated to keep it on track for a mid-2004 opening.

So I am working hard to solve the budget cuts we are facing – but I think we need a little more time for issues to be resolved.

City of San Diego Budget Forum

Please join me and City Manager, Michael Uberuaga, for a budget forum designed to give District 5 a sneak peak at the upcoming 2004 budget for the City of San Diego. A brief presentation on the City's spending priorities will be followed by a question and answer period.

I have sponsored a budget hearing each year in a different community in my district. We held last year's in Scripps Ranch and the year before it was in Mira Mesa. This will be a tremendous opportunity to discuss any questions and concerns regarding the city's fiscal plans and the impact that the State's financial situation will have on City services. I strongly encourage every resident of District 5 to attend and have your chance to inform city officials on how your tax dollars should be spent.

City of San Diego Budget Forum

March 27, 2003

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Rancho Bernardo Branch Library

This will be the only forum held in District 5, so don't miss it! For additional information, please contact my office at (619) 236-6655.



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